

THE PUBLIC FORUM

FOUR-MINUTE MEN. — I was reading this article in the Chicago American, June 25. "The Four-Minute Men," an organization of 150 young business men, urge men to enlist. It does not read that these young men themselves have enlisted. If you four-minute men mean business, why not enlist yourselves and set an example, instead of urging others to fight for you? Practice what you preach.

I intend to enlist soon. Do you four-minute men intend to do the same? Do you? Yes or no?

Why don't the sons of the munition plant owners enlist? Why don't the sons of those who made the draft laws enlist?

Will the four-minute men please answer the questions I've asked of them? — Frank H. Weaver, Henry, Ill.

EDUCATION. — There are only two kinds of people who can be perfectly simple and direct. They are those who have had no education and those who have had a great deal. A little education, such as a high school or college training, is dangerous. None are as independent as those who are so fortunate as to say: "We did not need a high school or college training. We are strong characters ourselves."

Many times we hear the expression: "You see, if I had had a better education it would have been different." Such a person will never make good. There is no self-help there. They admit it themselves by that statement. The question often arises, why are college graduates usually incapable of appreciating the good in art and music? One can only arrive at the conclusion that they are only book-learned and have grown so analytical and critical that they have left their souls sleep unknown and unused.

Colleges block the way by lodging

certain inhibitions in the mind. A recent article in "Current Opinion" stated that the way was most commonly blocked by set ideas which were so lodged in the mind by "education" and opinion that they operated against great divisions of literature. The prejudice of the early New England church against the theater is another example of an inhibition that rendered nugatory a great historic branch of art, the drama.

On July 17, 1916, at a class of the summer school of the University of Wisconsin, at Madison, after practical instructions in dressmaking were given, the history followed. Buttons was the topic. None of the class seemed to have heard, in fact could not help showing like so many open-mouthed cattle their amazement when the instructor stated that buttons were one of the by-products of a great industry. Then she elucidated this and informed them they came from the Union Stockyards of Chicago, being made from blood clotted and dried.

The writer, after looking casually around the room remarked: "I can see that half of the buttons worn on the waists here in the room now have come from the 'yards'." Some of the girls thought that it was time for them to titter and giggle. Some looked very much surprised. None were matter-of-fact, but all were uncomfortable. Some of them were silently uncomfortable, but uncomfortable was personified in each fool present, because only a fool can be made uncomfortable. A strong character always has complete possession of him or herself. They were so accustomed to sit like clams that they could not conceive in their limited brains of any one being at ease sufficiently to come among their midst and state a simple fact in a matter-of-fact way with no sign of self-consciousness.

Not all need colleges, but the colleges need their intellect, and would